Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There was a question and there I have answered. I cannot explain how the matter stands.

President.—Let there be discussion and we can know the sense of the Council. We shall take it up at 3-30 to-day. We have got another procedure. We have to see whether it is opposed. Nobody opposes. Since there is no opposition, we can take up this question at 3-30 to day.

2. *Grant to the Ernakulam Public Library and Reading Room.*

President.—The next one stands in the name of Mr. Kochunni Menon. That is with regard to the grant to the Ernakulam Public Library and Reading Room. The grant is being received for the 87th year, and it has been suspended because a general inspection was not allowed. The matter is urgent, and the order was passed only recently. The institution is intended for the benefit of the public at large,

Of course on this matter you are calling the order of the Diwan in the question that has to be discussed. Anyhow the matter has come to the attention of the Government by a second communication, where new matters have been urged. In the first place this does not partake of the nature of ordinary libraries under the grant-in-aid rules. There is a particular history connected with this Reading Room which places it on an altogether different footing. Then the Diwan's order is *ultra vires* inasmuch as he has not obtained the sanction of His Highness the Maharaja on this point you have raised and the matter is under enquiry. Under such circumstances, is it worthwhile to take up the matter for consideration ? I will call for a report from the Director of Public Instruction. Originally there was a report in which it was stated that the inspection was not allowed. Therefore, the grant was suspended.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—We simply want the matter to be rectified and we are not particular about discussing the matter.

President.—I shall just call for the report of the Director of Public Instruction. The matter is being inquired into.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—In that case I need not press it now.

President.—Of course, you see, though the order is passed, there is an opportunity for reconsidering the matter.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—We have to send money for magazines and other books, at the beginning of next month.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—May be expedited.

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President.—As was done on the former occasion, you may allow inspection under protest.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon .—What was the nature of the inspection? A clerk comes there, makes all sorts of remarks and the Director calls upon us to explain certain matters there. We are not for it. We are not prepared.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—May I explain?

President.—We are not on the merits of the case. How much are we giving?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Rs. 600.

President.—That grant is to be utilised for purchasing books during the current year. What they point out is that, supposing this matter is delayed and the grant is not received, they won't be able to order for the books.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I shall take the case just as it stands.

President.—That will bring other questions also. What they want is that the matter should be disposed of speedily.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That will be made clear. I shall state how it stands now.

President.—That will create a discussion. Could not the report called for be expedited?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Yes. This printed paper that is placed on the Table of the Members is a copy of the petition that was addressed to Government. It is now in my hands.

President.—Expedite the report called for and the Government will pass orders.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The short delay was due to the fact that this petition refers to events that took place long before this library came within the jurisdiction of the Department. These Public Libraries were subject to no inspection for many years. And then when their number increased, at the suggestion of His Highness himself, definite rules were framed for the inspection of these libraries, and the duty of inspecting these libraries was entrusted to the Education Department. Until then it had nothing to do with these Public Libraries. In the year 1916 it was at the suggestion of His Highness; it was not a mere report from the Diwan.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I do not know whether the discussion is in order.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I am simply stating the cause of the delay. This petition was sent to me and facts had to be ascertained which were not in the possession of the Education Department.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Well, then invite a discussion.

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President.—Discussion can be allowed only if we go into the merits of the question. I am simply putting forward that the matter is not finally disposed of. It has gone before the Government. Certain new facts have been raised in the petition. The thing comes in the usual course. I will have an opportunity of knowing what the Director of Public Instruction has to say, and if there is a cause for reconsidering the order, it will be done. Subject to this, I ask whether it is absolutely necessary to have an adjournment motion to be discussed.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I do not want to state the merits of the case. I shall just explain the cause of the delay.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Pending the reconsideration of the order, the order not to pay the grant may be suspended. Suspend a portion of that order.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—How can that be done?

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Every statement in that petition is borne out by records. There must have been some reason for not inspecting this library for 60 years.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—It refers to 1870. You can leisurely go into the matter. In the meantime nobody is going to be ruined by giving to the Library Rs. 600 so that we can go on with the work of the Library instead of stopping the Library without magazines. Without books how can we circulate? Without books we cannot do anything. The Government may kindly advance the money. So much money has been given for a number of years. It is run by a respectable body of persons who are above board. So for the time being for this year money may be given. In the meantime the matter may be considered unless there is a technical objection.

President.—Without prejudice to any order Government may pass hereafter on the merits of the case, the grant may be given. After all it is only a grant for one year—Rs. 600.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—This order was passed without any previous intimation.

President.—I do not myself see any reason.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—We can very well do that.

President.—However, we may talk over the matter, Mr. Matthai. What I myself wanted was, there was so much feeling, you might make some of the Members talk over the matter.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—As I explained, Sir, the difficulty was I was not in possession of the facts. Only this morning I got the file.

President.—Try to avoid discussions.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—These are merely routine matters so far as we are concerned.

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President.—Try to avoid discussions. So that, in this matter, you may withdraw the adjournment motion, and for our part, we will see that you are given the amount and we will decide the question. If the grant is delayed, you will not have the benefit of the purchase. Further it is my request that some of you should put your heads together. I shall ask Mr. Matthai to sit with you and with his co-operation you will see whether it is necessary to go into this matter at all. You are all honourable men doing honorary work. You are as much interested in the maintenance of this big Library as the Government.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—What we have got to do is Government has got to be consistent. Trichur might come and say that we want to be exempted.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You examine. What is there?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—It is always Trichur that troubles Ernakulam.

President.—You say there are definite rules on the point sanctioned by His Highness. What is the date of the communication addressed to the Diwan? Is it given in the printed Proceedings?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is not given here.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—7th of December.

President.—Before next year comes we shall discuss the question.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is possible of solution in two ways. Last year it was solved by the Committee allowing the inspection under protest.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—It was a mistake.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—This year they are not prepared to do that.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Why not have a give-and-take policy? You want to have all give and no take.

President.—Now give the grant. The grant, you will admit, will be used for purchasing books, no doubt. Instead of money you will have books. What they want is applications for books may be sent in time and the books may be got and kept in the Library for the use of the members.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I do not object to it at all. There are two courses and one course was adopted by the Library last year.

President.—Once they agreed. Suppose we agree under protest.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Let me give and take.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—So you may pay under protest.

President.—No protest. Without any prejudice to any decision. Because from the fact that we are giving the amount

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no inference should be drawn that the Government has conceded to this.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—This is practically an *ex parte* order. We had no opportunity of explaining the matter, when the last order was passed.

President.—We shall try. Everybody is interested in this Library. I myself have been the President of this Library for the last ten years. It is a common matter, and unless it is absolutely necessary, you must avoid discussions of such simple matters.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We are all for that.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—I don't press this motion

The adjournment motion was not pressed and hence it was considered withdrawn.

Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code.

President.—The next item is the motion of the Law Member that the Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code be taken up and passed.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code be taken up and passed.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second it.

Question proposed: *That the Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code be taken up and passed.*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096 be taken up and passed.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second it.

Question proposed: *That the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096 be taken up and passed.*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill to amend the Cochin Limitation Regulation.

President.—The next item is the presentation of the Select Committee's report by Mr. Kannan Nayar.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I rise to present the report of the Select Committee submitted on Limitation Regulation. I also move that the Bill as reported by them be considered by this House. The report itself is an exhaustive one. The notes on the sections as also the clauses are sufficient to make the House understand the nature of the changes recommended by the Select Committee so that I do not think that I need make any elaborate speech with reference to the several changes

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